

USSN: 10/699,586
Group Art Unit: 3739
Docket No.: 151P11200US01

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for making a hole of a first predetermined diameter in a dura of a patient for the insertion of a catheter having a second predetermined diameter, comprising:

a catheter having a lumen;

a stylet having a first end adapted for insertion in said lumen;

said stylet having a second end formed with a tip having a diameter having a predetermined relationship with said first predetermined diameter; and

means for applying an electrical current to said tip of said stylet to cauterize said dura.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said tip has a hemispherical shape.
4. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 3 wherein said hemispherical shape has a diameter and wherein said diameter of said hemispherical shape is approximately equal to said first predetermined diameter.
5. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 3 wherein said hemispherical shape has a diameter and wherein said diameter of said hemispherical shape is approximately equal to said second predetermined diameter.
6. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately equal to said second predetermined diameter.
7. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said first predetermined diameter is smaller than said second predetermined diameter.

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8. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 7 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately fifteen percent (15%) percent smaller than said second diameter.
9. (Original) A method of making a hole of a first predetermined diameter in a dura of a patient having a cranium for the insertion of a catheter having a second predetermined diameter, comprising the steps of:

determining whether to create a burr hole in said cranium of said patient;

inserting a first end of said stylet with a tip having a diameter having a predetermined relationship with said first predetermined diameter into said burr hole of said cranium;

applying an electrical current to said stylet in order to cauterize said dura creating a hole in said dura approximately equal to said diameter of said tip; and

inserting a second end of said stylet into a lumen of a catheter with said second end of said stylet proximal to a distal end of said catheter.
10. (Original) A method as in claim 9 wherein said tip of said stylet has a hemispherical shape.
11. (Original) A method as in claim 10 wherein said hemispherical shape has a diameter and wherein said diameter of said hemispherical shape is approximately equal to said first predetermined diameter.
12. (Original) A method as in claim 10 wherein said hemispherical shape has a diameter and wherein said diameter of said hemispherical shape is approximately equal to said second predetermined diameter.
13. (Original) A method as in claim 9 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately equal to said second predetermined diameter.

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14. (Original) A method as in claim 9 wherein said first predetermined diameter is smaller than said second predetermined diameter.
15. (Original) A method as in claim 14 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately fifteen percent (15%) smaller than said second diameter.